

First Extraordinary Session, 2000

SENATE BILL NO. 24

BY SENATORS THEUNISSEN, HAINKEL AND DARDENNE AND  
REPRESENTATIVES CRANE, DEWITT AND MCMAINS

SCHOOLS. Specifies that city and parish school boards must have a policy to place and educate foster children and may not deny enrollment to a child because he is in foster care.

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:238, relative to school attendance; to  
3 specifically require city and parish school boards to have a policy  
4 regarding the placement and education of foster children; to prohibit  
5 denial of enrollment because the child is in foster care; and to provide  
6 for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:238 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as  
9 follows:

10 §238. Education of children having no permanent address ~~and,~~ certain  
11 abandoned children, **and children in foster care**

12 A. Notwithstanding any provision of law or regulation to the  
13 contrary, each city and parish school board shall establish a policy to  
14 provide for the placement in school and for the education of any child  
15 temporarily residing within the jurisdiction of the board who has no

1 permanent address, ~~or who has been abandoned by his parents,~~ **or who**  
2 **is in foster care, pursuant to placement through the Department of**  
3 **Social Services.**

4 B. No school board shall deny enrollment in school to any child  
5 solely because the child has no permanent address, ~~or because the child~~  
6 ~~has been abandoned by his parents,~~ **or because the child is in foster**  
7 **care, pursuant to placement through the Department of Social**  
8 **Services;** however, nothing in this Section shall require the enrollment  
9 of any child not permitted by another school system to attend school,  
10 either permanently or temporarily, as a result of disciplinary actions.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which  
constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared  
by Diane M. Burkhart.

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#### DIGEST

Present law requires each city and parish school board to establish a policy for providing school placement and for the education of any child who does not have a permanent address or who has been abandoned by his parents. Prohibits a school board from denying enrollment to a child for such reasons.

Proposed law adds a child who is in foster care, pursuant to placement by the Dept. of Social Services to those for whom such policies are required and to whom such prohibition applies.

(Amends R.S. 17:238)